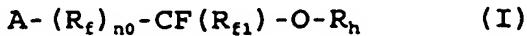


Examiner's Amendment

PROCESS FOR PREPARING HYDROFLUOROETHERS

ABSTRACT

Process for obtaining hydrofluoroethers of formula (I):



wherein: n_0 is zero or 1; R_f is a bivalent radical.

$C_1 - C_{20}$ (per)fluorealkylene, optionally containing one or more oxygen atoms;

$-CFW' - O - (R_{f_2}) - CFW -$, wherein W and W', equal or different, are F, CF_3 ; R_{f_2} is a (per)fluorepolyoxyalkylene;

R_{f_1} is F or a $C_1 - C_{10}$ (per)fluoroalkyl or (per)fluoroalkyl radical;

R_h is a $C_1 - C_{20}$ linear, branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl, or $C_1 - C_{20}$ alkylaryl;

$A = F, (R_{h_2}O) - CF(R_{f_4}) - , C(O)F$, wherein R_{h_2} , equal to or different from R_h , has the R_h meanings and R_{f_4} , equal to or different from R_{f_1} , has the R_{f_1} meanings;

wherein a mono- or bifunctional carbonyl compound of formula (IV):



B being F or $-C(O)R_{f_4}$, R_f , R_{f_1} and R_{f_4} being as above, is reacted with at least one equivalent of a fluoroformate of formula (III) :



wherein $R = R_h$ or R_{h_2} as above defined;

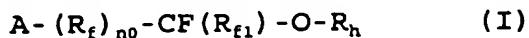
in the presence of an ion fluoride compound (catalyst) and of a dipolar aprotic organic compound, liquid and inert under the reaction conditions.

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 R_{f_1} is F or a C_1-C_{10} —(per)fluoroalkyl or (per)fluoroalkyl radical;—
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